



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2019

James D. Zwierlein becomes the official Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration



PHOTO: Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Executive Director James D. Zwierlein with his wife and children at the Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock, Ariz.

WINDOW ROCK – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer finalized a contract on Monday for James D. Zwierlein, who has served as the acting director since July, to serve as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration, which was completed in consultation with the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council.

“Mr. Zwierlein’s military background and knowledge will be very beneficial for the Nation as we work with federal and state agencies and Navajo veterans organizations to assist and empower our veterans on the Navajo Nation,” said President Nez.

Zwierlein has resided in Nahodishgish, N.M. for nearly four years with his wife Marie Zwierlein and their two children. Prior to his appointment, Zwierlein served as an Executive Staff Assistant with the Office of the President and Vice President and was assigned to work on housing issues, which included veterans housing.

Zwierlein was honorably discharged in 2011 after approximately 15 years of service in various capacities with the Marine Corps, which included serving as a liaison to members of the U.S. Intelligence Oversight Committee, as an Operations Chief with the 11th Marine Artillery Regiment in which he managed and coordinated nation building projects in Afghanistan to rebuild and stabilize local economies. He also served as a project manager at Camp Las Pulgas, where he managed the construction of several new facilities for U.S. Marine and Navy personnel.

Following his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, he served as the operations manager for a residential construction company, to create the company's strategic plans to build homes and generate a highly-skilled workforce using local labor forces.

Among other responsibilities, President Nez and Vice President Lizer have tasked Zwierlein with implementing housing manufacturing facilities on the Navajo Nation to construct and deliver homes for Navajo veterans and others.



PHOTO: (left to right) James D. Zwierlein and Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

"Homes are needed in every community across our Nation and with Mr. Zwierlein's background and having been in the housing industry, were confident he will help build more homes under the Veterans Housing Program and for Navajo families," said Vice President Lizer.

Zwierlein said he is grateful for the opportunity to serve the Nation and that he looks forward to building positive working relationships with the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council and veteran organizations and advocates through the Navajo Nation.

"I am excited that we have finally been able to put this contract in place so that now we can focus on more important issues that will help our veterans get the service they need. I'm grateful for the opportunity and thankful to President Nez and Vice President Lizer for having confidence in me to fill this position," stated Zwierlein.

##

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.